Restriction free export and import

†3096. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's policy, the export and import trade of the country is continuously getting free of restrictions;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to strengthen the domestic trade by making it successfully competitive;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for providing special incentives to certain special types of industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (e) With a view to making the Indian economy more competitive and to take it on the high growth path, all unnecessary restriction in the EXIM Policy has been progressively relaxed in conformity with the general policy of liberalization being followed by the Government. It is expected that domestic trade and industry will continue to benefit from the liberalized trade regime.

Declaration of exports as **a national priority**

3097. SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. AKHILESH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industry has urged Government to declare exports as a national priority;

(b) if so, whether the industry has also urged Government for having a growth-oriented Exim Policy with **a** new Export Promotion Scheme to reimburse in respect of local taxes;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether they have also urged that they need a quick transparent system for refund of sales tax, extension of deemed exports benefits to sector such as coal, mining, coal bed methane;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered these views; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Exports can act as the motive power of growth for a rapidly developing Indian economy and in making India a significant player in the world market. For this, in the speech on the occasion ofjthe announcement of the Exim Policy on 31st March, 2003, it has been mentioned that exports have to be recognized as a national priority by all the agencies of Government of India, State Government and private sector.

(b) to (e) The Exim Policy aims to achieve 1% share of global merchandise trade by the year 2007 with minimum annual growth rate of 12% in dollar terms. In finalizing the Exim Policy every year, the suggestion of various trade bodies, export promotion councils etc., are taken into consideration. This is done keeping in view all relevant factors including revenue implications.

Export to Iraq and other Arabian countries

3098. DR M.N. DAS:
DR.T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports worth Rs. 1000 crore are held up;

(b) if so, whether exports of sugar and wheat to Iraq and other Arabian countries which were contracted have suffered due to war;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to mec. stion in export and import front;

(d) the total loss occurred, and

(e) the number of contracts India have signed with Iraq through UN regarding oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Exports from India to Arabian countries as well as under the 'Oil for Food' Programme to Iraq have been affected due to the war in Iraq. The Office of the Iraq Programme under the